



## Frankenstein

by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851)

A mentally unstable genius, Victor Frankenstein, inspired by the dreams of ancient alchemists and empowered by modern science, creates a humanoid but fails to nurture and educate it after it comes to life. It wanders alone into a hostile world, where fear of its size and ugliness subjects it to violence and ostracism, which in time it learns to blame upon its maker. In retaliation, the creature begins a campaign of vengeance. Although its serious crimes are limited to those which will wound its maker's heart, Victor imagines much more widespread harm, supposing the human race itself to be the creature's intended victim. There then follows a chase into the frozen north, which the creature prolongs so as to destroy his pursuer by exposure and exhaustion.

This novel was begun while the author and her lover, Percy Shelley, were in hiding from her father and Percy's wife on the shores of Lake Geneva, where they were the frequent house guests of Lord Byron. The young people all wrote "ghost" stories, but only Mary's was destined for success. The novel was published in 1818. After Shelley's death Mary revised the text and published it again in 1831. This is the text read in this project.

Total running time: 8:44:47

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Cover design by Kathryn Delaney  
Illustration by Francisco Goya, *Colossus*, c1816



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